



**International Carwash Association**  
*Serving the Professional Car Care Industry*

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## **Jeep Grand Cherokee Responds to "Sudden Accelerating"**

Late this summer in a non-ICA member Chicagoland car wash, a woman was killed and her mother was seriously injured in an alleged Jeep Grand Cherokee "sudden acceleration" accident.

Daimler Chrysler was contacted to reinforce their position regarding the misapplication of the Jeep Grand Cherokee brake pedal that could result in "sudden acceleration." They claim that beginning with the model year 1996, all Grand Cherokees are equipped with a brake-park shift interlock to reduce the possibility that drivers would press the wrong pedal. Interlock prevents the driver from shifting from park into forward or reverse unless the foot is on the brake. The company also offered to retrofit 1984-95 Jeep Cherokees and 1993-95 Grand Cherokees with the interlock.

The 2000 model Grand Cherokee has been recently redesigned and includes the following features:

- Better centering of the driver's seat in relation to the steering wheel to better position the driver in relation to the pedals.
- The floor mat now hooks to the floor to ensure it doesn't set on top of the throttle pedal.
- Brake shift interlock remains intact as a safety measure.

Daimler Chrysler continues to defend their position of operator error in "sudden acceleration" accidents involving Jeep vehicles.

## **Lincoln Town Car Update**

ICA operators have reported problems with the 1999 Lincoln Town Car "B" pillar appliques staining in the car wash. The appliques are anodized aluminum similar to the Ford Expedition and Navigator "D" pillar. Staining occurs when hydrofluoric, ammonium bi-fluoride or alkaline detergents containing sodium or potassium hydroxides contact the surface.

Ford Motor Company has provided the following direction:

- If staining occurs polish the "B" pillar appliques with a lite polish. It will temporarily remove the stain but the stain will return (possibly within 2 weeks).
- Advise the car wash customer that Ford Motor Company will be issuing an Engineering Technical Services Bulletin to replace all damaged "B" pillar appliques with new painted appliques in the very near future.

The permanent resolution by Ford will be to change the "B" pillar applique surface or material to resist any staining due to car wash solutions as previously described. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Joe Ward, Director of Engineering, through International Carwash Association Headquarters at [ica@sba.com](mailto:ica@sba.com).